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I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the U.S. Postal Service with sufficient postage as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Mail Stop Amendment, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 on October 18, 2004.

CUSTOMER NUMBER

24024

JFW/

PE PY Yaneff

PATENT

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

e Patent Application of

Williams et al.

Examiner:

Nicholson, E.

Serial No.:

10/707,698

Art Unit:

3679

Filed:

August 15, 2003

Attorney Docket No.: 22188/06727

For:

FERRULE WITH RELIEF TO

REDUCE GALLING

AMENDMENT AND RESPONSE TO OFFICE ACTION

Mail Stop Amendment Commissioner for Patents P.O. Box 1450 Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Dear Sir:

In response to the Office action dated May 18, 2004, Applicants hereby respond as follows. The shortened period for response expired August 18, 2004, accordingly Applicants hereby petition for a two month extension of time. A check in the amount of \$430.00 for the extension of time is enclosed herewith. The extended due date for this response therefore is October 18, 2004. It is believed that there is no additional fee associated with the filing and consideration of this amendment, however, should the Commissioner decide that any fee or fee deficiency is due, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any and all fees incurred as a result of entering this amendment and response to deposit account number 03-0172.

Please amend the application as follows: